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Materials For Teachers in Illinois



State of Illinois

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TO THE TEACHERS OF ILLINOIS

Environmental education is a new mission for teachers. With vital public awareness of threats to our surroundings, environmental concerns must be brought into the classroom. Inquiries from teachers throughout Illinois have made it clear that additional information and different approaches are needed.

Teachers teach and children learn in a very personal relationship. But some basic aids for interested teachers can help.

Here is some help. A packet of basic environmental education materials has been distributed to every elementary school in Illinois. The selection is modest and basic. It is a starter. It is a resource to be drawn upon by teachers as they deal with environmental problems in their own ways.

The materials cover a broad spectrum. Some contain information about environmental problems. Visual aids, teaching ideas, suggestions for classroom projects, and identification of new resources are included. The approach is interdisciplinary and directed toward local problems — whether rural or urban.

These packets are a joint project of the Illinois Institute for Environmental Quality and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Beyond this first step, larger efforts must be made toward effective environmental education programs in Illinois. Teachers interested in participating in the design of further programs are encouraged to contact the Institute or the Office of the Superintendent.

Today's concept of environmental education is different from the traditional study of conservation, nature, and science in that it adds new concerns (pollution and human ecology) and new emphasis (the complex interrelationship of man and his environment).

These brief descriptions will help you use the materials in this packet.

- **A Place to Live** (National Audubon Society) starts with the child, establishes him as an integral part of the ecologic picture, and proceeds from there. The Teacher's Manual contains a good list of poetry, prose, films, and references.
- **EP*—The New Conservation** (Izaak Walton League) is a readable, action-oriented book designed for concerned citizens. Appendix G is "Available Curriculum Materials in Environmental Conservation Education."
- **1971 E Q Index** (National Wildlife Federation) has great visual impact. Each section could make a stimulating starting point for a class project or discussion.
- **Toward A New Environmental Ethic** (U. S. Environmental Protection Agency) describes what is happening on a national level. It touches on air, water, and solid waste pollution control, radiation, pesticides, and noise.
- **Environmental Education** (Instructor) defines the title and lists conceptual schemes to be included in any environmental education program. The action section gives one teacher's chronological report of her class's success in understanding the causes and consequences of water pollution.

- **Teaching Science With Garbage** (Rodale Press) suggests inexpensive but effective experiments using easily available materials. It helps students see how they are individually involved in the problems of solid wastes.
- **Earth Cycles** (Scholastic Magazine) This very colorful poster can be useful in teaching about the water cycle, carbon dioxide/oxygen cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy cycle. If the poster is split down the middle, one half can be turned over so that the contrasts and similarities of two cycles can be studied at one time.
- **Environmental Pollution** (World Book Encyclopedia). This item is included as a reminder of all of the materials that can be found in standard encyclopedias and other book material in the school library.
- **Water Pollution;**
(Life) is a vivid pictorial presentation of many of the useful material that can be clipped from magazines and newspapers.
- **Needed: Clean Air.** (Chicago Lung Association) This treatment of air pollution is written briefly in a popular style, but presents a great deal of material in a well-organized manner.
- **Air Pollution; The Facts** (Chicago Lung Association) defines air pollution and its causes, and suggests what individuals and community groups can do about air pollution.
- **Smoke Watcher's Guide** is a card for measuring the density and blackness of smoke emissions from schools, factories, offices, and homes.

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- **Help for Environmental Programs** (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture) gives hints and sources of help for teachers looking for assistance in their environmental education programs.
- **Noise. The Third Pollution** (Public Affairs Pamphlet) gives a brief but useful discussion of health effects of noise and how it can be controlled.
- **Children's Books on Ecology** (Chicago Lung Association) is a short bibliography developed by the staff of the Chicago Public Library.
- **You Are an Environment: An Approach to Teaching Environmental Attitudes** (Center for Curriculum Design) emphasizes procedures for teaching environmental attitudes, including environmental role-playing and exercises designed to develop respect and responsibility for environmental integrity.

ADDITIONAL COPIES

Each school has received one copy of each of the pamphlets in the packet. You may need more, either for use in several classrooms at once, or for distribution to students.

Information and advice concerning bulk orders of environmental education materials can be obtained from:

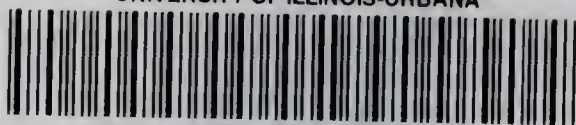
Angela Imberman
Library — Illinois Institute for
Environmental Quality
312-793-3870

Many of the items are free; some are available at a modest cost.

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WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT WORKS

Environmental education materials must be used to be effective. How these materials are used will depend upon individual teachers and classroom situations.

Good environmental education programs throughout Illinois depend heavily upon the exchange of ideas and experiences between teachers. We want your evaluation of the effectiveness of environmental education projects using these materials. Your reports of your experiences will be collected and distributed to other teachers.

Please write to the OSPI or the IIEQ describing new approaches you have devised using these materials.

Use the enclosed box for storing your environmental pamphlets. Add to them!

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Chicago, Illinois 60606 312-793-3870

Conservation and Environmental Education Unit
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

316 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706 217-525-3330



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